

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6 have been amended to better define the claimed invention. New claims 7-18 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. The amended/new claims find solid support in the original application, such as the drawings, especially Figs. 7-8, and the corresponding text in the specification, especially page 7, lines 11-16 and 19-21, page 10, lines 16-20, and page 13, lines 21-22. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The art rejections relying primarily on *Toshikatsu* (JP 2001-297363) are noted. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's position that the reference teaches or suggests the originally claimed invention,¹ amendments have nevertheless been made to specifically avoid *Toshikatsu*, solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution.

Toshikatsu relates to a coin processor for an automatic vending machine. More precisely, *Toshikatsu* discloses an automatic vending machine comprising a coin entrance slot 8, a coin return mouth 12, a safe 17, and switching means 16 for leading a coin inserted into the entrance slot 8 to the coin return mouth 12 or the safe 17. According to the Examiner, the claimed "bill insertion slot" corresponds to the reference's "coin entrance slot 8" and the claimed "bill guide plate" corresponds to a surrounding part of the reference's "coin entrance slot 8". If so, the claimed "opening" for dropping foreign matter is not disclosed in *Toshikatsu*. Furthermore, *Toshikatsu* does not include any disclosure of the collection of foreign matter separated from bills.

¹ For example, the Examiner's reading of the reference's coin insertion slot on the claimed bill insertion slot is improper.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that *Toshikatsu* does not anticipate amended claim 1. The reference is not modifiable to include the claimed “opening for dropping foreign matter separated from the bill,” lacking an adequate suggestion or motivation to do so. Therefore, amended claim 1 is patentable over the applied art of record.

Claims 2-18 depend from claim 1, and are considered patentable at least for the reasons advanced with respect to claim 1. The dependent claims are also patentable on their own merits since these claims recite other features neither disclosed, taught nor suggested by the applied art, as will be apparent to the Examiner upon reviewing these claims.

As to claim 3, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s allegation that *Toshikatsu* discloses the claim feature that “the container is detachably mounted to the rear face of the door.” The cited passage of the machine-translated version of *Toshikatsu*, i.e., “The safe 17 which collects a coin is held free [attachment and detachment] inside the door 5,” does not make sense. The Examiner is requested to obtain an accurate translation of *Toshikatsu* or to withdraw the rejection.

As to claims 7-9, *Toshikatsu* does not fairly teach or suggest the claimed bill validator positioned adjacent the bill insertion slot. The element of *Toshikatsu* that is adjacent the slot 8 must be a coin validator (i.e., element 15) rather than a bill validator as claimed.

As to claims 10 and 18, *Toshikatsu* does not fairly teach or suggest the claimed latches and pins.

As to claim 11, note the above discussion with respect to claim 3, i.e., it is unclear from the Examiner’s cited passage as to how safe 17 is mounted, if at all, to the door.

As to claim 12, *Toshikatsu* does not fairly teach or suggest that the opening in the bill guide plate is smaller than a diameter of a coin utilizable with the gaming machine, thereby preventing such coin from falling through the opening and the guide part to the container. The opening in the

coin insertion slot 8 of *Toshikatsu* is configured to receive/drop coins and, therefore, cannot be sized in the presently claimed manner; otherwise, the *Toshikatsu* coin receptor would be inoperative.

As to claim 13, *Toshikatsu* does not fairly teach or suggest a coin slot... different from the bill insertion slot for receiving coins utilizable with the gaming machine. This feature distinguishes the claimed invention from the Examiner's unreasonable interpretation of *Toshikatsu*'s coin insertion slot on the claimed bill insertion slot.

As to claim 14, *Toshikatsu* does not fairly teach or suggest that when the container is mounted to the rear face of the door, the guide part defines, at all times, a passage from the opening of the bill guide plate to an upper opening of the container. It should be noted that, in *Toshikatsu*, the element readable by the Examiner on the claimed guide part, i.e., switching means 16, has a state (Drawing 2) where it does not define a passage between slot 8 and safe 17. See also paragraph [0013] of *Toshikatsu*.

As to claim 15, *Toshikatsu* does not fairly teach or suggest that the guide part is fixed immovably to the door. Note that the *Toshikatsu* switching means 16 are movable relative to the door from the position shown in Drawing 2 to the position shown in Drawing 3. See also paragraph [0013] of *Toshikatsu*.

As to claims 16-18, *Toshikatsu* does not fairly teach or suggest the claimed shape of the container.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been traversed/overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.


The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to

facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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